



Global Ocean Monitoring and Observing  
NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

# Making Decisions to Sustain and Evolve Ocean Observations and Research

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# GOMO Decisions: 2017 vs. 2021

- Division within a program  $\longrightarrow$  program of our own
  - Increased responsibility and visibility; inside NOAA and outside
- Sustained ocean/climate observing  $\longrightarrow$  phenomena-based science
  - One example is investing in observing extreme events; more details shortly
- Past administration  $\longrightarrow$  current administration
  - Climate science is in the spotlight; GOMO has a role to play



**Times have changed; GOMO has choices to make!**

# Decision Channel Markers

## Guidance

- Congressional appropriations
- NOAA Administrator priorities
- (NOAA), OAR, GOMO Strat Plans
- GOMO Program and portfolio reviews
- GOMO Committee (next presentation!)
- Global Ocean Observing System, Global Climate Observing System, int'l

## Considerations

- Sustain critical observing for NOAA missions
- Mitigate operational risks & failures
- Consider outyear GOMO budget formulation plans
- Preparing for opportunity (supplemental bills, etc)





# Funding vehicles

## Funding Arrangements

- Congressional appropriations (annual)
  - Most funding awards are year-to-year, adjusted (when necessary) in accordance with appropriations and program gaps (e.g. ship time) which are not predictable
- Competitions (1 to 3 years)
  - Major initiatives, new program pilots, are often initiated through competitive approaches (NOPP, CPO, GOMO)
- Intra-NOAA resourcing
  - Program and lab partnering



# Our Expert Crew

- GOMO program managers lead and integrate best science
  - NOAA labs, cooperative institutes, academic institutions, int'l partners ...
- Guidance + funding tools + **program managers** = BEST POSSIBLE DECISION
  - Program Managers  Principle Investigators
  - Program Managers  Director, Deputy
- Approx 5 year reviews of all GOMO-supported observing systems and projects
  - Sustain, evolve, or both?
  - Start, stop?
- External subject matter experts
  - 5 year reviews (thank you all!)
  - Bi-annual Community Workshops
  - GOMO Committee (individual expert opinions)



# “Sustain” Example: Iridium Cost Increase

*Where we were:* FY21 \$3.4M Iridium Cost Increase

*Where we are:* New commercial contract in place, succession plan to transition, relief from Congress in FY22

*How we got here:*

- Reduced travel (COVID); program managers directed PIs
- Identified least painful reductions; program managers, PIs recommendations
- Reduced Argo and Drifters; could more quickly recover; directors decision
  - 24% fewer (~240) US surface drifter deployments
  - 10% reduction in Argo funding, leading to a 12% (~40) fewer Argo floats

# **“Evolve” Example: Extreme Events Portfolio**

*Where we were:* Deploying drifters and gliders under separate program management

*Where we are:* Coordinating across GOMO PMs, NOAA labs, NOAA National Ocean Service, National Weather Service to create integrated field plans for each hurricane season focusing on better predicting and measuring hurricane intensity

*How we got here:*

- Calculated risk taking by the director
- Investing in “nucleus of expertise” across OAR, NOS, NWS
- Requesting a strategy and recommendations from these experts
- Putting the recommendations into action with new FY22 funds (disaster supplemental)

# Achievements and Impacts

- Measuring success to communicate GOMO program value
- Performance measurement
  - AOP, progress reporting, risk register, operations and management reviews, budget reviews, external reviews.....
- Understanding partner and stakeholder requirements are key
  - GOMO continues to grow in this space, working with current partners, identifying new stakeholders and end users of our information



# Future plans and opportunities

- Sustain AND evolve/ innovate
- Select strategic areas for aspirational investment (we have the plan for that)
- Create opportunities for new proposals/new science voices
- Partner partner partner ... (government, NGO, private sector, and beyond)





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# Additional Slides